THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the news item. The Committee on Environment and Health constituted by the Government recommended creation of integrated data base on Environmental pollution and it's impact on human health. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Environmental Health Cell and also commissioned environmental health studies, to generate the data base on environmental pollution and human health.

Welfare Schemes for Fruit and Vegetable growers in Punjab

†*185. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any shceme for the welfare of vegetable and fruit producers in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount auocated for the purpose during 2001-2002; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes on "Integrated Development of Vegetables including Root and Tuber Crops and Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits" in the country including Punjab. Since October 2000, the schemes were subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on macro Management of Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. The programmes of these schemes are now being pursued by the States/UTs through work plans for which Central Assistance is provided as per approved norms of the macro management scheme. Under this scheme states have greater flexibility to priorities their needs. During 2001-02 funds amounting to Rs. 237.00 lakhs have been made available for the development of horticulture to the state, out of which Rs. 201.59 lakhs are for development of fruits and vegetables.

Besides, State Govt. of Punjab is implementing, for the welfare of the fruits and vegetable growers of Punjab, schemes on (i) Improvement of Quality of Perlette variety of grapes (ii) Integrated Development of Fruits (iii) Development of Vegetables (iv) Development of Onion (v) Foundation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

seed Production (vi) Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas (vii) Transfer of technology through Training and Visits of Fruit and Vegetable Growers and (viii) Transmission of Technology through Extension, Demonstration, Training in Horticulture practices. During 2001-02 the State Govt. has made available Rs. 51.78 lakhs as financial assistance to fruits and vegetable growers of the State.

National Horticulture Board, Government of India, has released during 2001-02 in the state of Punjab Rs. 6.00 lakhs for strengthening post-Harvest Management, Rs. 6.68 lakhs for the implementation of the scheme "Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture", Rs. 0.78 lakhs for organizing/ participation in seminar/exihibition and Rs. 1.15 lakhs for visit of progressive farmers. National Horticulture Board has also sanctioned 7 Nos. of cold storages creating additional capacity of 25391 MT in the state under the scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Constmction/Expansion/Modernisaiton of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce" for which financial assistance amounting to Rs. 131.24 lakhs has been made available in the State of Punjab. Besides, for "Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas" financial assistance amounting to Rs. 3.00 lakhs has also been sanctioned for the State.

A Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture is being implemented in the State of Punjab during 9th Plan with the objective of promoting rapid growth of horticulture by bridging the gap in knowledge and skills both managerial and technical. In Punjab training programmes for Gardeners are being conducted through Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.For the year 2001-02 an amount of Rs. 9 lakhs has been earmarked for Punjab Agriculture University for this purpose. Besides, an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakhs has been allocated during 2001-02 to the State Horticulture Department for training programme of the horticulture staff.

Under the Work Plan of Vegetables implemented by national Horticultural Research and Development Foundation funds amounting to Rs. 22.83 lakhs have been spent in the State of Punjab for adoption of Integrated Pest Management, mechanisation of vegetable crops, farmers' participatory demonstrations, Ventilated Godowns for onions and Group visit of farmers to vegetables research stations, seed production areas and processing units.

Indian Council of agriculture Research is carrying out research for the improvement of fruits and vegetables in Punjab at Central Potato Research Station, Jalandhar and Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana. The Council

has developed high yielding varieties in potato, tomato, brinjal, chili, cauliflower, cabbage, carrot, guava and has recommended their commercial cultivation in the State. The Council has also recommended growing of grape variety, flame seedless in the State. The Council has also recommended growing of grape variety, flame seedless in the State. The Council has introduced from USA elite planting material of Kinnoo mandarin. For the State of Punjab the Council has also developed and recommended number of technologies like rejuvenation of old mango orchards, regular bearing in mango, production technology for grapes and technology for getting good qualtiy winter season crop of guava instead of rainy season crop.

In addition to the above, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has finalised establishment of following Agri Export Zones:

(i) Agri Export Zone for Vegetables. This Export Zone would cover area of Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur and Ludhiana. Punjab Agri Export Corporation Limited is the State level nodal organization for this Agri Export Zone.

(ii) Agri Export Zone for Potatoes. The Central facility for this Export Zone would be at Singpura, Zirakpur District Patiala with satellite centres covering areas of Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Rampura Phul and Muktsar. The State level nodal organization for this Zone in Punjab State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd.

Education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†*186. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALAN1:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated funds to various States for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for each State during 2001-2002; and

(c) what amount has been released to States by the end of December, 2000, out of this allocated amount?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.